

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3321
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA OIL
ASHOK ARGAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the `Genetically Modified` soya oil being imported from abroad is reportedly injurious to health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the Government is likely to impose a ban on its import?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): As per information available with the Ministry of Health, there is no evidence that imported soya oil produced from Genetically Modified soya beans is injurious to health.

(c): The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests approved the import of refined soya oil on 5.7.2002 by CARE India from the USA for the ICDS programme. Recently, Crude Degummed Soya Bean oil has also been approved by the GEAC in its meeting of 7th November 2002 for import by CARE India for a period of one year.